

**FAUQUIER COUNTY
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2016

4:00 p.m.

Warren Green Building, 1st Floor Conference Room
10 Hotel Street, Warrenton

Attendance:

Virginia Gerrish (Center District Representative)
Bob Lee (Planning Commission Representative)
Reta Rodgers (Cedar Run District Representative)
John Toler (Scott District Representative)
Mary Root, Chair (Citizen-at-Large)
Jack LaMonica (Marshall District Representative)

Absent:

Bryan Jacobs (Lee District Representative)

Staff:

Wendy Wheatcraft, Preservation Planner
Maureen Williamson, Staff

1. Ms. Root called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.
2. The July 6, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed. Ms. Root requested that staff add a sentence to the minutes stating when she excused herself from the meeting and Vice Chair, Mr. LaMonica, began to preside over the meeting. Ms. Root made a motion to approve the minutes with the additional language. Ms. Gerrish seconded the motion. The motion carried 5 – 0.
3. Ongoing Business
 - Demonstration of Prehistoric Predictive Model
Ms. Wheatcraft displayed the prehistoric predictive model in the County's GIS that was developed by Dovetail Cultural Resources Group. Several general and parcel specific screen shots of the model were shown. To put the map in context, Ms. Wheatcraft highlighted areas that were familiar to most County residents—that area surrounding Lord Fairfax Community College and the landfill. She overlaid the predictive model over an aerial photo of the County and then, over the existing archaeological site layer.

Ms. Wheatcraft said that the model was based on such factors as soil type, ground elevation, and proximity to water, as well as the locations of previously-identified prehistoric sites. She explained that the colors representing the model's different probability areas (low, medium, and high) could be changed to suit a specific situation. She noted that during the presentation, the blue color showed the highest indicator of a prehistoric site, green showed medium probability, and yellow indicated low likelihood of occupation.

Ms. Root asked why there were so few areas of high probability along the upper reaches of the Rappahannock River. Ms. Wheatcraft said that it may have something to do with the higher ground elevation, but Dovetail's archaeologist could confirm this during their presentation of the model, which was budgeted as a part of the project.

The ARB discussed a few locations in the County, including White Sulfur Springs. Mr. Lee noted that on page 23 of the model report, it was suggested that archaeologist David Bushnell felt that the Mannohoac village of Tanxsnitania was located at or near Fauquier White Sulfur Springs. Mr. Lee noted the hypothesized location of Tanxsnitania makes sense due to its proximity to the prolific springs, some of which were thermal and never froze. Ms. Gerrish asked about the springs today, and Mr. Lee said that the springs are located on the grounds of the Fauquier Springs Country Club. He noted that some of the springs are capped off, others filled in with stone, and some are still free flowing at the back of the club's property.

Ms. Wheatcraft is working with the GIS Department to make the predictive model layer available to County planners, as the project is meant to be a tool for preservation planning. She said that although the model contains sensitive archaeological information, our staff can be trusted to use it professionally.

4. New Business

- Planning for the Archaeology Month Program – October 2016

Ms. Root believes that the program should be held as an internal event with invitations going to those who would be using the data the most. Mr. Lee felt that if the elected and appointed officials could see the significant findings that resulted from a modest expenditure of taxpayer funding, the more apt they will be apt to endorse the project. Ms. Wheatcraft noted that along with planning staff, zoning, stormwater management/environmental staff, and the County soil scientist would be invited to attend.

The ARB discussed locations for the program and agreed to hold the presentation in the Board Chambers. The date and time was also discussed, and the ARB agreed on the morning of Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. All members noted being available to attend the event. Ms. Wheatcraft will contact Dovetail Cultural Resource Group to ensure that the archaeologists are available on the date and time chosen.

- McCormick House, Factory, and Cemetery Site in Auburn

Ms. Wheatcraft discussed a situation that is threatening the McCormick House and factory site in Auburn. The threat stems from a current situation where an adjoining property would be using a previously recorded right-of-way to construct an access road to a new house site. Ms. Wheatcraft showed the McCormick site in GIS. She put together a packet of facts and talking points for Sue Sheer, a citizen who lives in the area. She has been involved in negotiating with property owners in the vicinity for access to an existing private road, as opposed to constructing the new access road through the McCormick site.

5. Announcements

September 9-11, 2016 – Preservation Trades Network will present the 20th Annual International Preservation Trades Workshop at Clermont Farm, Berryville, Virginia. Held in conjunction with the National Barn Alliance Conference.

Ms. Wheatcraft said that she will send the County reimbursement form electronically to those ARB members who registered for the workshop. She asked members to attach a copy of their receipt to the reimbursement form.

Ms. Root announced that the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission Rural Roundtable will meet at Germanna College on August 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Root told the Board about a book recently reviewed by the *Washington Post* titled, *Losing Our Cool: Uncomfortable Truths about Our Air Conditioned World*. She said the book chronicles cooling technology and as it became more efficient, how it transformed the architecture of buildings and the materials used to build them.

Mr. Lee noted that the Planning Commission voted to revise the proposed changes to the telecommunications ordinance to require the ARB to review and make recommendations for all tower proposals beyond 120 feet, as the ordinance now states. The BOS will vote on the Planning Commission's recommendation at the August 11, 2016 meeting.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 7, 2016.
7. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.